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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A novel method for the determination of amino acids by HPLC using pre-column derivatization is described. In this procedure, the amino acids are derivatized with 2-chlorobenzoxazole to yield highly fluorescent N-(2-benzoxazolyl)-amino acids (BOX-AAs) for detection at very high sensitivity. Derivatives can also be detected using conventional UV detection methods. The BOX-AAs can be separated on a C18 reversed phase column for quantitative estimation. This method can be used for the preparation of N-(2-benzoxazolyl)-amino acids in large amounts.

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